

# Mohave County Miner.

VOL. XXVI.

KINGMAN, ARIZONA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 1908.

NO. 14

## Arizona Leads in Mineral Production in 1907

### Leads All States by Wide Margin

Leads Montana in Copper Output, 37,000,000 lbs.  
Leads Michigan in Copper Output, 39,000,000 "

Leads Montana in total value, \$ 5,000,000  
Leads Michigan in total value, 17,000,000  
Leads Colorado in total value, 28,000,000  
Leads all Alaska in total value, 46,000,000  
Leads all Nevada in value, 56,000,000  
Leads Cripple Creek in value, 55,000,000  
Leads Goldfield in value, 57,000,000  
Leads Goldfield and Cripple Creek combined in value, 46,000,000

#### MONTANA'S OUTPUT, 1907

Montana's output for 1906 was 300,000,000 pounds.

Her rate of increase for six years has been five per cent.

This under normal conditions would give an output for 1907 of 315,000,000 pounds. The high price of copper furnished an unusual inducement for the first half of 1907 to push her output to the limit, but I figured that she was not quite able to hold her rate of increase, owing to several causes, and produced for the first six months a trifle less than the normal.

All the world knows that the financial panic of the last half of 1907, to the confusion and disaster of which her speculative operators contributed their full and unstinted share, has thrown Montana's great copper industry completely off the track and into the ditch.

My own final estimate of her output for the year was 242,000,000 pounds, but as I felt too much in the dark I thought best to wire for information. I am probably the only newspaper man in Arizona who ever spent a red writing for copper information. It is cheaper to guess. On December 26, I received from Mr. Ellsworth, the well informed and responsible mining editor of the Butte Daily Miner, who should certainly be the best authority in the camp (and under no temptation to underestimate the output) and he answered:

"The year's output, Montana, will be 236,750,000 pounds."

How are the mighty fallen!—how are the proud bowed! Montana, the opulent and haughty queen of the copper world wipes her weeping eyes with sleeve and passes her crown and scepter up to Arizona!—to poor Arizona, which the people of Los Angeles, where we buy most of our "store goods" are just beginning to realize is "a mineral country of considerable promise" and may some day be "as great as the Bullfrog district." That's because they hear about Bullfrog through their newspapers, and they don't hear about Arizona!

It makes a difference. Yes, it makes a big difference—to Los Angeles.

Modesty is a lovely virtue, but Arizona rather over-plays the gentle emotion. Los Angeles isn't to blame. She'd be tickled to hear, if Arizona would mention the matter, and her great newspapers would be glad to print the news if we'd send it in, as promptly as the "society queen" of Los Angeles send in the news of their social functions.

Arizona's merchants and bankers ought to get up a public subscription to buy a copy or two of Arizona's New Year's papers to send to their wholesalers and correspondents. On such an occasion Denver would send out 150,000 copies of her local papers.

A personal letter would do the business if our people want to save the cost of a local paper. Most everybody knows that Montana has been "Queen of the Copper World" for a long time, but just modestly mention in your letter that "ain't so no more," that Arizona is on the job for the present and will take a try at the crown and scepter act herself for a spell.

Los Angeles will fall off her chair

when she hears the surprising news, but a little shock like that won't do her any harm. She's been queen herself for quite a while—queen city of the Pacific, or something of that sort—and she'll be tickled to find she's got a "royal cousin" right next door that she can drop in on a friendly gossip of a morning "while the dishwater is heating."

Just say that Arizona's copper output for 1907, in comparison with the late royal Montana's stood:—

Arizona's output ..... 274,000,000 lbs.  
Montana's output ..... 236,750,000 lbs.

Arizona's excess ..... 37,250,000 lbs.

That will be enough. Everybody will understand and all will hasten to "send cards" to the new queen and drop in to look over our "crown jewels."

Montana's output of gold and silver is much larger than Arizona's but as most of those are by-products of her copper there will be a considerable falling-off from last year's output.

Value of Montana's copper output for 1907 (allowing all she claims) will be 236,750,000 x .2126 (the average price of copper for the year)..... \$50,333,050  
All other metals (roughly estimated)..... 11,500,000

Total value (in round millions)..... 62,000,000  
Arizona ..... 67,000,000

Arizona's lead..... 5,000,000

#### MICHIGAN'S OUTPUT, 1907.

The output of Michigan for 1907 is figured on the estimate wired to me on the 27th of December by Horace J. Stevens, of Houghton, Michigan, author of the "Copper Handbook," an annual publication of indispensable value to all who try to understand the copper industry. Mr. Stevens is the highest individual authority in the world on general copper matters. He wired me in response to a telegraphic request for the information as follows:

"My preliminary rough estimate of Michigan's output for the year is 235,000,000 pounds."

My own final estimate for Michigan was 231,500,000 pounds.

Her output for 1906 was 224,000,000 pounds and her rate of increase for the last six years was close to 7.1-3 per cent. This would have made her output 140,000,000 for 1907. I estimated she would hold her place to the middle of the year under the incentive of high prices, and then just about lose her percentage of increase for the last half of the year—that was the basis of my estimate.

Unlike several of Arizona's big producers Michigan operators did not join the curtailment agreement of the Montana producers, and was therefore not so much affected in her normal output as Arizona.

In deference to the high and responsible character of Mr. Stevens as a copper authority on his own district, I abandon my own estimate and adopt his, as stated.

Arizona, 1907, my estimate ..... 274,000,000 lbs.  
Michigan, 1907, Mr. Stevens' ..... 235,000,000 lbs.

Arizona's excess ..... 39,000,000 lbs.  
Michigan carries (in practical effect) no gold or silver at present depths.

Money value of Michigan's output, 235,000,000 x average price for the year, .2126 cents—\$49,996,100,—or in round numbers, 50,000,000\$.

For fifty years Michigan lead the world in the production of copper, but lost the lead to Montana, and now the scepter has passed to Arizona. The

reason for this is not obscure or doubtful. It doesn't lie in the fact, as the copper jawsmiths preach with an owl's assumption of wisdom, that the Michigan field is approaching exhaustion, which isn't the fact. I have studied that field a little and in my judgment the field is not yet developed to the extent of one-quarter of its probable capacity, and if I get back to the United States 3,000 years from now I expect to find a larger mining population in the Michigan copper field than it holds today.

The secret of Arizona's supremacy lies in the plain, demonstrable fact that the total volume of her copper output is produced at a good deal lower cost than any other field in the world is now able to produce an equal quantity—and Arizona's great "copper belt" is not yet developed to the extent of one-tenth of its probable capacity.

#### ARIZONA'S 1907 COPPER OUTPUT.

The copper output of Arizona for 1906 was 263,000,000 pounds.

The rate of increase for 6 years had been 18 per cent.

With this rate of increase maintained, her output would have been 310,000,000 pounds for 1907, and with the price of copper higher than it had been for a great many years, there was the strongest incentive to make the output as great as possible. It may fairly be assumed therefore that for the first 8 months of the year and before the great fall in price came, that the output was up to the normal rate of increase.

That would give (in round millions) 207,000,000 pounds.

The average price for those eight months was .2426 cents a pound—in the market the price is carried out to 5 decimals like that.

The money value of the output for the first eight months therefore was almost fifty-one millions—50,979,960\$.

During the panic there was a violent fall in the price of copper and a sharp curtailment in the output, not from strict necessity in Arizona, where the whole volume of the output is produced at a lower cost than can be done anywhere else in the world for an equal quantity, but because of business sympathy with the large producers of Montana.

The curtailment in actual output was probably not so great as many suppose, for while labor was discharged and the ore tonnage largely cut, it is the business policy of copper miners at such time to work their richer reserves.

After consultation with others whose judgment on the situation is valuable it seems to me ample to allow, for all Arizona, 40 per cent from the previous place as the curtailment, and therefore I assume that the total output for the last four months of the year was, in round numbers, 67,000,000 pounds of finished copper—about 17,000,000 a month.

The average of daily prices for the last four months was .14594 cents. Value of output, 4 months \$ 9,778,000  
Total output for the year 274,000,000 lbs.  
Total money value.....\$60,758,000

But sworn tax statements under the law of Arizona show that the finished copper averages a gold and silver value of .0107 cents to the pound and the total value of these by-products should therefore be 2,931,800\$.

There is also another by-product which is not taxable and the output and the value must therefore be estimated—the sulphuric acid produced at Clifton. I estimate the product at 35,000 tons and the value of 700,000\$.

The total money value of Arizona's copper-mining industry may therefore be stated as follows:

Finished copper.....\$60,758,000  
Gold and silver, by-products 2,931,800  
Sulphuric acid..... 700,000

Grand total..... 64,389,800

All minerals produced independently of copper mining—gold, silver, lead, zinc and quicksilver—may, I think, fairly be lumped at 3,000,000\$. Arizona's total mineral output for 1907 may therefore be stated in round numbers as 67,000,000\$.

While this is a candid and very

careful estimate, calculated with a pretty close knowledge of the general situation, it is an estimate only and in the nature of things no mortal living can either prove it or disprove it at the present moment. It will be twelve months before the government statistical reports will enable the final corrections to be made—and even they are never perfect, though every effort is made to have them as nearly perfect as possible. Up to the middle of the year, while things were running in normal order, it was easy to make close estimate on industrial affairs, but the panic has clouded all with uncertainty during the last half of the year.

If I did not expect this statement of estimates to be pretty closely sustained by the final government statistics of course I should not sign my name to it. I think it will be, and I sign it with confidence.

It is a great event for Arizona. No single event of so general an interest to the territory is likely to happen till we are admitted to statehood. It is an industrial event of proud achievement that should give our people confidence in themselves and in the incalculable mineral resources of Arizona. I extend hearty congratulations to all—shake.

FITZ MAC.

Phoenix, Arizona, Dec. 30.

#### Oil Field Not a Busy Scene.

Independence, Kan., Dec. 28.—Operations in the Mid-continent field are nearer to a standstill now than at any other time since the famous shutdown during the session of the Kansas legislature in the spring of 1905. This does not mean by any means that there is no drilling in progress, but simply a considerable curtailment. Everything else of course has gone down with operations. In the matter of lease taking, for instance, one can get all the leases he wishes and at reasonable bonuses, whereas a few weeks ago they were hard to find and prices were soaring. Oil well supply men state, though, that orders indicate a resumption shortly after the first of the year. This may be realized and it may not. The probabilities are against an immediate return to work.

Nothing of particular moment has transpired in the field the past week. No important wells have come in and no work has been started to attract unusual attention. The report of United States Indian Agent Dan H. Kelsey at Muskogee for the fiscal year ending June, 1907, proved interesting to oil men who have felt the heavy hand of the Interior Department, and caused some little comment. Mr. Kelsey reports that whereas the sales of crude petroleum were 980,000 barrels in July, 1906, in the Indian Territory, they were 3,150,000 barrels in June, 1907. This is a remarkable increase for one district in a single year, and it illustrates the stupendous undertaking the pipe line companies had to tackle to find means of handling it. It also suggests the idea that the past year has been a very prosperous one for the Indian. He has had a flow of gold coming to him while the operator has had a flow going out because the cost of developing this vast amount of production has been enormous, going into many millions. Very few leases have yet paid out, while the Indian land owner is all to the good. Over 750,489\$ has been paid the Indians in royalties alone, to say nothing of bonuses and presents. The previous year the royalties amounted to 1,300\$. Some Indians are now drawing 3,000\$ a month, others 2,000\$, more 1,500\$, and any number 100\$ to 500\$ a month. It is estimated that nearly 20,000,000 barrels of oil are stored in tankage in the Creek and Cherokee nations in addition to the sales. And yet the world is given to understand that the oil man is not totting fair with the Indian. This is as removed from the truth as can be. It is well illustrated by the fact that in many parts of the Kansas end of the field wells that started out big are already exhausted and the material in them is being withdrawn and the holes plugged before the companies ever paid out, and now the properties are being disposed

of at forced sales. Most of the largest wells in the famous Bolton pool have become exhausted. The southern division, or territory end of the field, is not proving any different. Although it is not generally known it is, nevertheless, a fact that many wells drilled three years ago in the Osage are becoming exhausted and abandoned. It is found that one well will drain a larger area than in eastern fields. Oil men who fail to take this into consideration are sure to be disappointed in the end. It is this point the Interior Department at Washington fails to take cognizance of, because the Interior Department is not informed by experience.

Another thing that is causing comment at present is the attitude of the government on the question of the Prairie Oil and Gas Company. Operators who have long been hostile to the Standard are being forced into a friendly attitude by the action of the government. They are now holding the Interior Department responsible for the low ebb of the market. It is argued if the department had not made rulings practically confiscatory of pipe lines and shown partiality in favor of one class as against another the Prairie would have built a line to the Gulf, and with three competing lines south the price of oil could not have failed to advance. However this may be, the fact remains that there is a serious question if the government is accomplishing for the producer what it aims to accomplish; indeed, if it is not in reality doing him and all concerned more harm than good.—H. G. James, in Denver Mining Record.

#### Had Much Valuable Ore.

A Goldfield special to the Salt Lake Herald says: A house belonging to Charles Rookard, 618 Fifth avenue, was raided by Constable Inman last night and ore said to be valued at 60,000\$ was seized. Rookard, who was working at the furnace, was arrested on a warrant sworn to by Frank Oliver, manager of the Little Florence mine. His place was completely equipped for the reduction of ore, even to a cyanide plant, which was in operation when the officers arrived. They were refused admittance until they threatened to break in.

Rookard had an electric call bell at the back door, which was fastened by means of a drop latch of the old style connected with the middle room by a rope. The door also had a peephole, enabling the inmates to scrutinize any applicant for admission. The building is within five feet of the house occupied by a deputy sheriff. The plant was run at night only.

Rookard is said to have been twice arrested in Cripple Creek for purchasing stolen ore. The windows of the building were heavily curtained and the lower sash boarded up. The officers claim that the ore seized is of the same character as that stolen by the five men who were arrested recently on the 300-foot level of the Little Florence lease.

#### Placer Operations on the Hassayampa

President I. T. Hosey and Engineer Dobbins, of the Arizona Placer Mining company, accompanied by J. H. Heward, left yesterday morning for the company's placer fields on the Hassayampa. Messrs. Hosey and Dobbins are provided with sluicing apparatus prepared to do the necessary testing and representation work on the property of the company. They will secure a large number of men at Wickburg. Mr. Heward will remain on the ground several days making thorough tests with a view to connecting himself with the dredging operations of the company. At the completion of his investigation the value of every part of the ground will have been pretty accurately determined.

It is stated by representatives of the company that within a year one of the largest dredges in operation in the territory will be installed on that part of the Hassayampa covered by the claims of the company.

Several capitalists and placer mining experts have manifested a great deal of interest in this property.—Phoenix Republican.